

DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended to recite a flushing gas having a dew point of above -10°C. Support for the amendment is found on page 5, line 23 of the specification. Claims 2 and 3 are amended in accordance with the amendment to Claim 1 and for matters of form.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

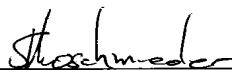
Applicants thank Examiner Polyansky for an indication of allowable subject matter appearing on page 12 of the July 12 Office Action. Applicants further thank Examiner Polyansky for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' U.S. representative on September 7, 2010. During the discussion, the Examiner appeared to be in agreement that an amendment to Claim 1 to recite a flushing gas having a dew point of above -10°C would overcome the rejections of record.

As kindly pointed out by the Examiner on page 12 of the July 12 Office Action, the Fukuda '754 reference teaches away from utilizing a flushing gas having a dew point of above -10°C. Present Claim 1 recites a flushing gas having a dew point of above -10°C. Applicants submit that the subject matter now recited in Claim 1 is not obvious over the art relied on by the Office at least for the reason that the cited art teaches away from the presently claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully request the allowance of all now-pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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